



shôjo



BASARA

TM

Story and Art by Yumi Tamura

Vol.12



shōjo

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Yumi Tamura

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Vol. #12

Shôjo Edition

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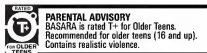
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In the early 21st century, an apocalypse turned fertile lands into deserts and brought human civilization to its knees. Control of Japan passed into the hands of tyrannical kings. Three hundred years later, a new hope was born.

At the birth of a rebel chieftain's twins, the blind prophet Nagi predicted, "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." The people of Byakko Village placed their hopes in Tatara, their Chief's son, raising him as the "Boy of Destiny."

With the tyrannical Ukon XV ruling Japan through his ruthless sons, a better tomorrow can only be achieved through strife and bloodshed. When the "Boy of Destiny" is killed by the Red King's forces, it is up to his twin sister Sarasa to lead their people in his name, or all will be lost.

Sarasa has achieved victory over the Red King in Kyushu and the Blue King in Seiran, gaining many allies along the way. The Red King's recklessness inspired a coup. Sarasa nearly lost her sight. Sarasa headed to Okinawa to heal her eyes and Shuri went to flee his betrayers. Together, they helped to keep Okinawa free from Japan's tyrannical rule.

Intent on liberating Sanyo from his father's rule, Shuri has traveled to Shikoku with new companions and perspectives from Okinawa. There, he has found an ally in the tactically astute Tenma.

Upon Sarasa's return, she confesses the truth of her gender to her closest comrades. The reunion is short lived, for Hayato's ship returns without him, bearing a gruesome warning from the people of Kazuno with whom he was to initiate contact. Sarasa's own attempt to gain Kazuno as an ally ends not only in failure but also in getting herself, Ageha and Asagi thrown into Abashiri Prison! This underground mine is ruled by a mysterious quartet of merciless men. Worse, an unknown assailant is out to kill "Tatara," and one of the four prison leaders has discovered Sarasa's a girl!



Sarasa (disguised as Tataru)

When Sarasa and her twin brother Tataru were born, a prophecy was made. "This is a child of destiny..." The people of Byakko Village assumed Tataru was the "Boy of Destiny," and Sarasa grew up mostly in his shadow. When the Red King's forces killed Tataru, Sarasa took up her brother's name. Now she fights in his guise, unaware she is the real Child of Destiny. Although Sarasa has finally confessed her gender to her closest allies, during past visits to hot springs, she met a curious young man named Shuri, who has been her primary outlet for being completely herself.



Ageha

Capable of staying the hand of a King and arranging for 1000 head of cattle on short notice, this mysterious desert nomad seems to be extremely informed and influen-

tial. He also has a secret identity—Kicho, a famous performer among a traveling troupe of dancing ladies. Ageha lost his left eye when the Red King blinded him as payment for his rescue of 12-year-old Sarasa. Now, he is "Tataru's" slightly mercenary ally. Ageha uses his owl companion, Kagero, to carry messages to his contacts.



Wind Owl

Son of the local king, Wind Owl is the ruler of Abashiri Prison. Paranoid and violent, this young man bears a striking resemblance to Shuri.



Kaku

Byakko Village's military advisor and trainer, Kaku is loyal to Sarasa's family and the cause of the "Boy of Destiny." He has some mysterious connection with the north and has traveled there to help Sarasa and the others escape.



Asagi

His pale skin and refined demeanor belie his ruthlessness and deadly skills. Once one of the Blue King's personal bodyguards, Asagi allowed the Blue King to die, for Asagi is the

true Blue King. Allying himself with "Tataru," his participation with the rebels is primarily out of personal curiosity and entertainment.



Hayato

His deal to pretend to be Tataru for the Red King's cousin, Shido, ended in disaster, so Hayato decided to join the "real" Tataru. He has since learned he's the descendant of

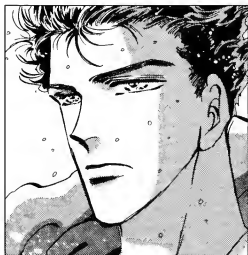
Rasho, leader of the Suzaku, allies of Byakko. He has also saved "Tataru" from Shido. Sent to begin talks of alliance with Kazuno, he was captured and sent to Abashiri Prison.



Water Deer, Fox Fire, Earth Bear

Polite and indifferent, Water Deer is the master of Abashiri Prison's Hall A. Fox Fire rules Hall B, while Earth Bear runs Hall C.





The Red King

Once in charge of Midwestern Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu, he is the youngest of the King of Japan's four sons. Prophesied to bring misfortune, King Ukon branded him a slave. Only a privileged few call him by his name—Shuri. Hounded by threats from abroad and his family, he was a ruthless but effective ruler, crushing those who opposed him. The destruction of Byakko Village is just one in a long list of rebel groups he has suppressed. But he has been ousted from his throne and is learning to be his own leader, not an extension of his father. Ignorant of her secret identity and hiding his own, Shuri's interactions with Sarasa reveal hints of his unhealthy family history and his desire to unite Japan in peace. He is now using the title "Tiger King of the Desert" and "Red Tiger."



Nachi

Spirited and daring, Nachi is the son of the head priest at the Great Kumano Hongu Shrine and the second in command of the Tengu Faction, a somewhat radical

group of young Hongu monks that has chosen to aid "Tatara." He is also a skilled sailor, whaler and outdoorsman. Nachi was the only ally who witnessed the capture and internment of Sarasa, Ageha and Asagi, and he intends to figure a way to help them out.



Muratake

Rescued from a blizzard by Nachi, Muratake is one of the four elite spies who aid Asagi.



Yuna

Strong, smart and skilled in karate, Yuna is one of Doctor Basho's pupils and engaged to Okinawa's incumbent president, Asato. Her level-headedness has made her a valuable ally to Shuri.



Shirasu

Among the prisoners of Hall A, Shirasu is the top dog. Ageha has gained this informed and influential man's help by offering Shirasu his body.



Nanao

This heavily accented and oddly cheerful young man was imprisoned at the same time as Sarasa and the others. He seems intent on being their friend.



Nakijin

Serious, kind and skilled in karate, he is one of Doctor Basho's pupils and a longtime friend of Yuna's. He has also followed Shuri from Okinawa.



Tenma

Leader of the Tosa district in Shikoku, he is a skilled tactician and has chosen to aid Shuri.

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SILVER TALE 6: HIS NAME

TATARA!





TINY TAM-TAM TIME ①

Hey! We're actually in Volume 12!
Thanks so much for all your letters!
There's a Tam-Tam Time in
the back of this volume!

THERE'S GOING TO BE A BASARA
DRAMA CD, AND I WROTE THE
SCRIPT! IT'S A REAL
TEARJERKER—I THINK YOU'LL LIKE
IT!
(BUT IT'S ONLY AVAILABLE IN JAPAN
RIGHT NOW. -PB)

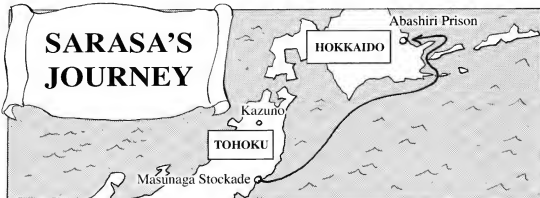
HOW IS
EVERYONE?

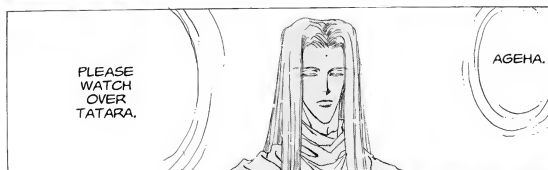
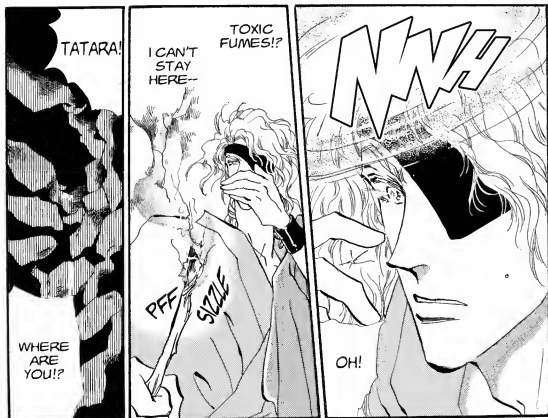


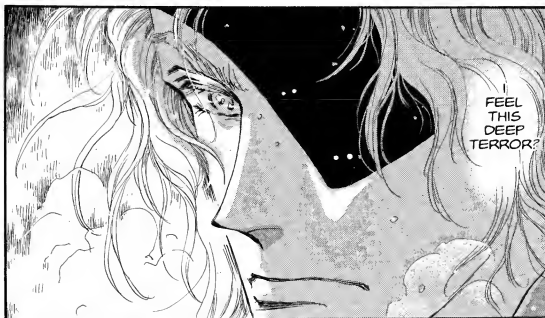
I DID A LITTLE WORK ON THE
CHARACTER DESIGNS OF A S.N.E.S.
GAME CALLED 'LIVE-A-LIVE'! IT WAS
AN HONOR, 'CUZ I LOVE
VIDEOGAMES! >
PLEASE CHECK IT OUT, TOO! >

I'VE BEEN DOING SOME ILLUSTRATION
WORK HERE AND THERE (IN JAPAN).
YOU MIGHT SEE SOME AROUND! >
TALK TO YOU LATER!
TAMU

SARASA'S JOURNEY











NACHI
FOLLOWED
THEM...

WE'VE
BEEN
TORN
APART.

HAYATO'S
MISSING...

THE ONES WHO
WENT LOOKING
FOR HIM HAVE
BEEN
CAPTURED...

COULDN'T
YOU SEE
THESE
THINGS
COMING?

I DON'T
GET YOU.
I'M
LEAVING.

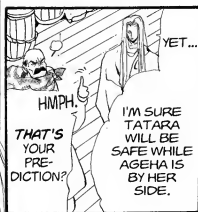


THE
THING
TO
FEAR...
BE
CAREFUL...

AGEHA
IS
ANOTHER
STAR...

I'M
SORRY.

...ONE OF
THE
STARS
OF
DESTINY
THAT
WILL
SHAPE
HISTORY.



HMPH.
THAT'S
YOUR
PRE-
DICTION?

YET...

I'M SURE
TATARA
WILL BE
SAFE WHILE
AGEHA IS
BY HER
SIDE.

...BRINGS
ORDEALS...

...IS
THAT THE
FUTURE...

THE
THING
TO
FEAR
THE
MOST...

...ORDEALS
LIKE NONE
TATARA HAS
KNOWN
BEFORE.

SARASA...

WHEN
THE
TIME
COMES
TO
CLASH
WITH THE
RED
KING...

...WHAT WILL
BE IN YOUR
THOUGHTS?

THAT IS
WHAT I
FEAR...

THEY
WILL BE
CRUELER
BECAUSE
SHE IS A
WOMAN.









...DID I
END UP
HERE,
LIKE
THIS!?

HOW...

I RIPPED
HIS
CLOTHES
...

I
THINK...

YEAH...

SOMEONE
STRANGLER
ME...

I WAS
IN THE
CAVE...

YOU'DVE
DIED
FROM
THE
FUMES.

DON'T
BE SO
PRICKLY.

IF I
HADN'T
SAVED
YOU...



ONE OF THE
PRISONERS...

...TRIED TO
KILL ME!



THIS IS A
SCRAP...

...OF A
PRISONERS'
UNIFORM.



DON'T
BE
HASTY.

THINK
IT
OVER.



NO.



NO.



I'M THE SON
OF THE
KING HERE.

GIVE ME
WHAT I
WANT...

AND
YOU'LL
LIVE A
DECENT
LIFE.



IT HAS
TO BE
SHURI...



HE MAY
LOOK
LIKE
HIM...

AND
SOUND
LIKE
HIM...

BUT HE
IS NOT
SHURI.



IT HAS
TO BE
SHURI!

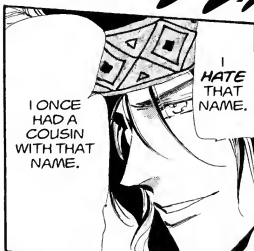


CHK

SO YOU'D
RATHER
DIE?









THE
RED
KING...

...IS
SHURI?

HIS
NAME...

BUT THE
KING
THOUGHT HE
WAS AFTER
THE
THRONE...

AND SENT
HIM TO
THIS TRAP!

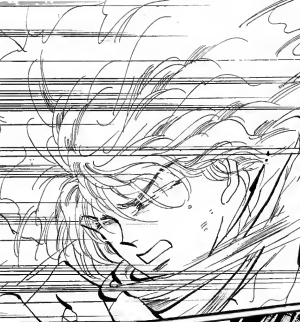
VIP
WHP
SHARP
MY DAD
IS THE
YOUNGER
BROTHER
OF THE
KING OF
JAPAN!

WAP
SH
NOT
STUCK
IN THIS
HOLE!

IF
THINGS
HAD
GONE
RIGHT...

I'D BE
LIVING A
LUSH
LIFE IN A
PALACE.





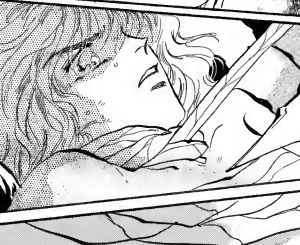
SNAP

...UNTIL I
GET
TIRED
OF YOU.

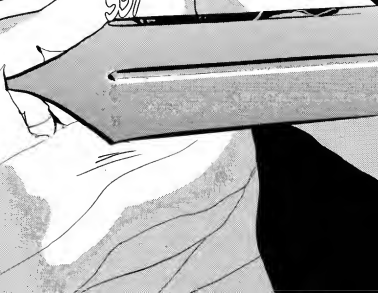
HEH,
HEH.

AND
YOU
CAN BE
MY
WIFE.

WELL...



SSIT



IT MAKES
ME
COWER...

REMINDS
ME OF ALL
THE
TERROR...

IT'S
WORSE
THAN
FIGHTING
WITH A
SWORD...



...THE
HUMILIATION
YOU'RE
PUTTING
ME
THROUGH!

YOU CAN'T
UNDERSTAND.

DON'T
TELL
ME
HOW
YOU
GREW
UP.



NOTHING
CAN
EXCUSE...

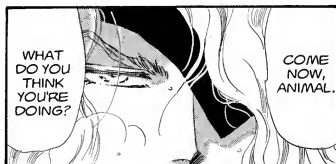
...THAT
WOMEN GO
THROUGH...

REMINDS
ME THAT I
/ AM A
WOMAN...

AS A
MAN!

FLY

...EVEN WHILE
I'M TRYING TO
LIVE...











NO!!

I
WAS
THE
ONE...

FOR
SO
LONG...

...AS I
WANDERED
THE DESERTS...

I DON'T
NEED
TO BE
TOLD.

PLEASE
WATCH
OVER
TATARA.

AGEHA...

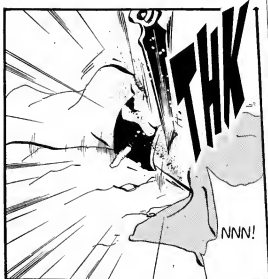


WELL,
I'M A BIT
MASO-
CHISTIC.

WEEZ
PEH!
SADISTIC,
ARE YOU,
DEER?



BRAVO



NNN!



...MORE
THAN
ANY
OTHER...

I
WAS THE
ONE WHO
WAITED
DESPERATELY...

...FOR
TATARA,
THE STAR
OF HOPE.



HEY,
DEER.
STOP.



I'M
LET-
TING
YOU
GO.

TAKE
HIM
AND
LEAVE,
GIRL.



I
WON'T.

WHAT
NOW,
GIRL?
HMM?



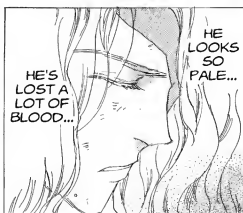
I'LL
COME
SAVE
YOU.

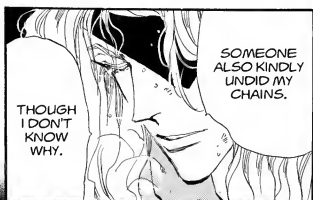
HEH, HEH,
HEH!

SEE IF YOU
CAN
ESCAPE.

HEH,
HEH.

CALL FOR
ME WHEN
YOU
CHANGE
YOUR
MIND!







I FEEL LIKE
I'M
WALKING IN
A DREAM.



IF
ONLY...

I COULD
GET A
LOOK
AT THAT
MAP!



WE MUST
BE
GETTING
FURTHER
FROM THE
HOT
SPRINGS...

HFF
HFF

ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT,
AGEHA...?



WE
CAN
SEE...

THERE'S
LIGHT
COMING
IN FROM
SOME-
WHERE.

BUT
COLD...

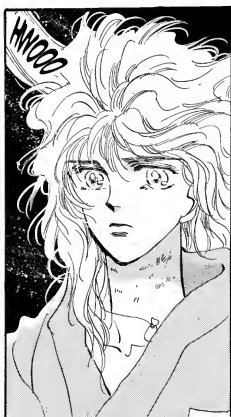
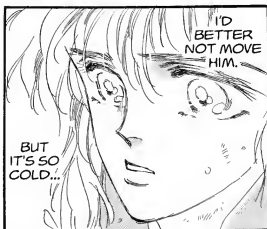
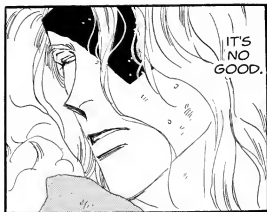
AND A
BREEZE...



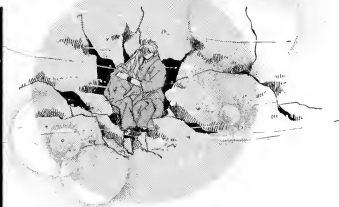
JUST
LAST
WEEK...

...OF
OKINAWA.

...WE
WERE
UNDER
THE
BRIGHT
SUN...









YOU
TAKE A
BATH.



I'LL SEND
HIM BACK
TO HIS
CHAMBER.



CLEAN
YOURSELF
UP AS
MUCH AS
YOU CAN.

THIS IS
MY
PRIVATE
HOT
SPRING.



I CAN'T BELIEVE
I'M AT A HOT
SPRING WITH
SOMEONE WHO
LOOKS LIKE
SHURI...



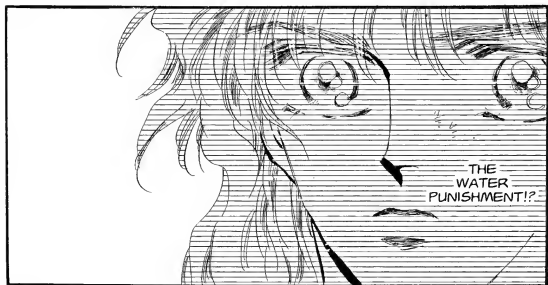
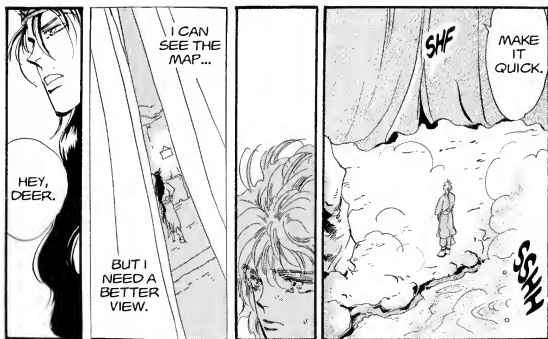
WHAT'S
SO
FUNNY?



HEH.



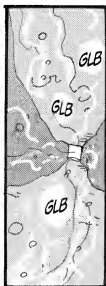
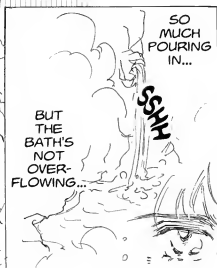
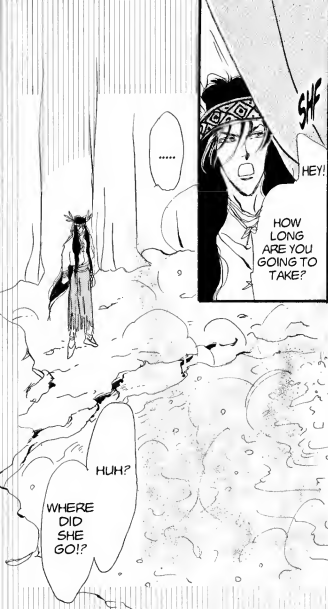
CHANGE
YOUR
MIND?













SHM



"MANY DROPS MAKE A SHOWER."

"SCRATCH LONG ENOUGH..."

"...AND YOU'LL DIG THROUGH ROCK."







SO
HE'S
THE
ONE...



VERTICAL TAM-TAM TIME ①

HAYATO'S PROFILE:

HAYATO'S DAY:

朝 MORNING



He bounces out of bed, ready for a new day.

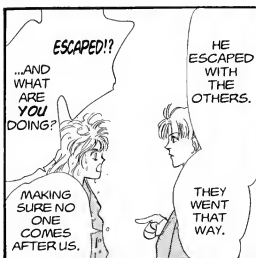
His birthday is April 1, so he's an Aries. His blood type is O.

He's a year younger than Sarasa, so he's 15 years old now. ♡
He'll probably get taller.



What he'd look like with his hair down.







DID YOU
TALK TO
WIND
OWL?



NOTHING
ALIKE.



NOT AT
ALL.

16





THANKS
TO
YOU...

I'VE
FIGURED
OUT WHAT
TO DO.



YOU
WERE
RIGHT,
AGEHA.

I
WAS
A BIT
LOST.

SAY.

WATER
DEER.



THERE'S
A
CROWD
OF
THEM!

LOOK
SHARPER!

THEY'VE
GOT TO BE
NEAR
HERE!



WILL YOU
MAKE IT
WORTH MY
WHILE?

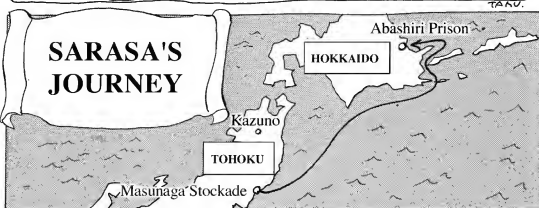
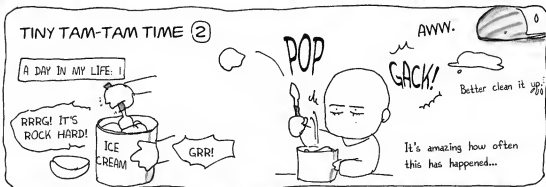
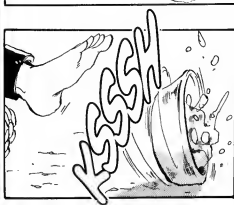
I CAN TELL
YOU WHERE
THEY WENT.





SILVER TALE 7: DEVIL'S TRUMPET







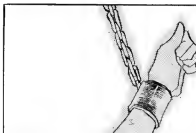
WILL I
STARVE
TO
DEATH?

...I'M
SO
HUNGRY.



OR JUST
LIKE
SLEEPING?

WILL IT BE
PAINFUL?



EVEN IF IT
KILLS ME!

I WON'T DO
WHAT THEY
SAY--



BUT I
DON'T
WANT TO
DIE...

I'M TATARA'S
RIGHT HAND
MAN!



BUT THIS
IS HOW
IT ENDS
UP...

I'M SORRY,
TATARA.

I
WANT
TO.

I WANT TO
BE USEFUL
TO YOU.



I
KEEP
THINKING I
HEAR
TATARA'S
VOICE...

IT'S
ODD...

SINCE
YESTERDAY...

HFF
HFF
HFF



! THERE'S
SOMETHING
THERE...



SHK

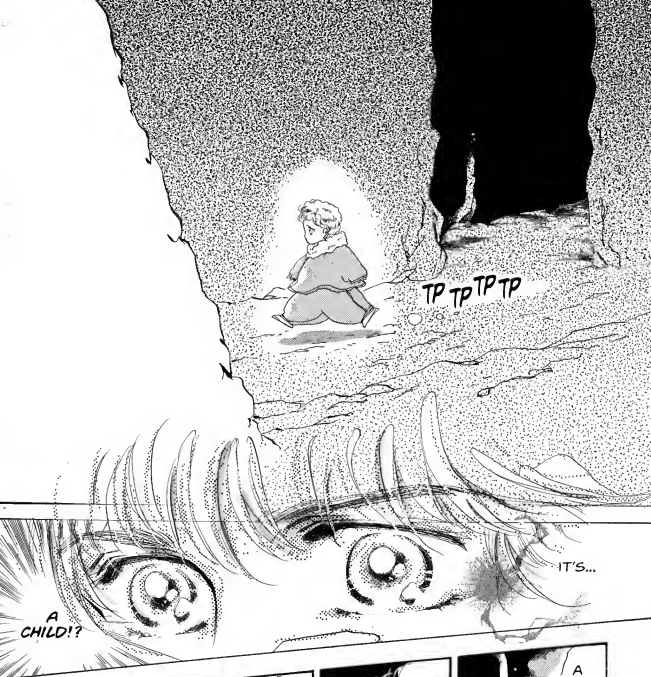


TP



THE
OTHERS
MUST'VE
GONE
FURTHER.

HFF
HFF
THEY
MUST
NOT'VE
BEEN
FOUND
YET.







WHAT
IS
THIS?

A FIELD
OF
FLOWERS
IN THIS
HELL?

AM I
DREAMING?

WHERE'D
THE
LITTLE
BOY GO?!

SHK

THEY
MIGHT
SEE
ME!

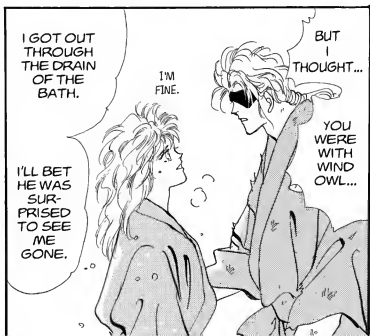
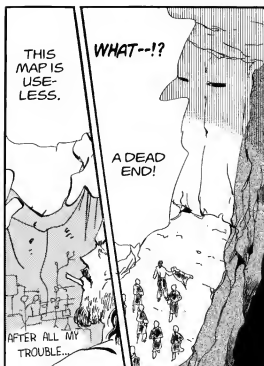
UH-
OH...

I HAVE
TO FIND
AGEHA.

SHF

SHF







...I'M
SORRY.



YOU'RE
NOT
NEARLY
GOOD
ENOUGH...

TO THINK
YOU CAN
PROTECT
ME.





...WAS
IT
NANAO'S?



THEY
PROBABLY
HAVE TO
OVERLAP
EACH
OTHER.

GET IT?



LIKE THIS.

PLUS, I
DON'T
THINK...

...IT'S JUST
A MAP
THAT'S
BEEN CUT
IN FOUR
PIECES.



I GIVE
UP.

WELL.

I GUESS
YOU **DO**
NEED
ALL
FOUR
MAPS.



WATER
DEER IS
OUT
THERE
SOME-
WHERE....

I FEEL
EYES
ON ME.



ONE
MAN, 20
YEARS
A--

LIKE I
SAID!

THEN
WE'RE...

PLEASE
BE QUIET,
OLD MAN.

"BARKING
UP THE
WRONG
TREE."

SS

!?

FOOOM

URK

SSSHHH

I
KNEW
IT.

SH

ZSH

HOT!

STSS

KSSH







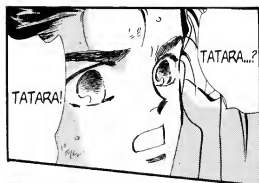
SH

H...

SH

NAYATO!?







DON'T
EAT THE
FOOD!

TATARA!

WHEN
YOU GET
TO HALL
B--

TATARA!

WHAT!?



FOR
THE
CHILD!

WATCH
OUT--



JUMP!

TATARA!





HE'S
ALIVE!



WHAT'S
ALL THE
NOISE?

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
IN MY
TERRITORY?

"WHEN
IT RAINS,
IT
POURS."



THAT'S
HIM!

YOUR
TERRITORY!?

THE GUY
WHO WAS
IN THE
FIELD OF
FLOWERS...

WHERE'S
THE
LITTLE
BOY...?

...FIRE
FOX?

SO
YOU'RE...

NO ONE
EVER
COMES
HERE OF HIS
OWN
ACCORD.

YES.

MASTER
OF HALL B.



WE TRIED
TO
ESCAPE...

...AND GOT
OURSELVES
DEEPER IN.

FUNNY.

THE
INFAMOUS
HALL B!



A--

WATER
DEER.

I'M DIS-
APPOINTED,
SHIRASU.

YOU WERE
A MODEL
PRISONER.

YOU COULD
HAVE HAD A
PLEASANT
LIFE.

ASAGI!?







THIS IS
JUST FOR
YOU.

DON'T
TELL
WIND
OWL,
THOUGH.



I HAVE
CONNECTIONS
TO THE
ROYAL
FAMILY.

I MIGHT
BE ABLE
TO HELP
YOU.



WHAT
DO YOU
WANT IN
RETURN?

AND...



NO
REACTION?

NOT
VERY
DEMON-
STRATIVE,
ARE
YOU?

I
HATE
THAT.



THEN A
CHANGE
OF
CLOTHES...

AND A
DECENT
MEAL?

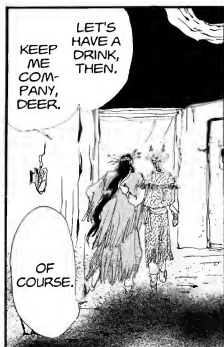


THOSE
WOULD
MAKE
A NICE
START.

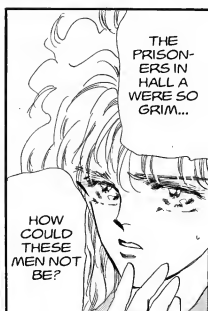
A
CLEAN
BED...

A
WARM
BED...







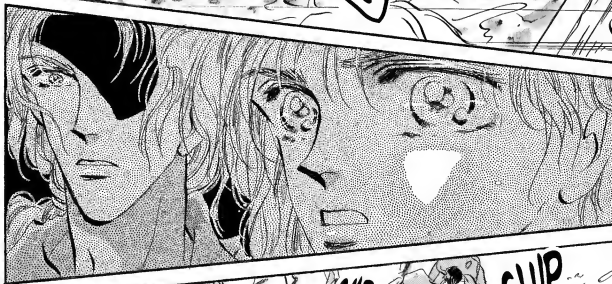




CLAP



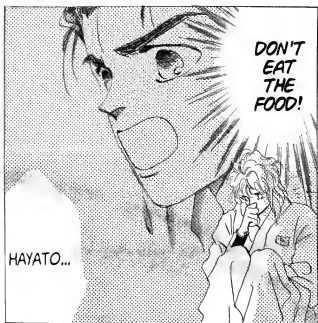
YOU
MAY
EAT.

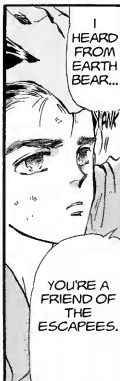




HE WAS A
MAN'S
MAN.
FEARLESS.
PROUD.







I DON'T
KNOW IF
IT'S
NIGHT...

OR HOW MANY
DAYS IT'S
BEEN SINCE
WE GOT
HERE.

...OR IF IT'S
MORNING.



THEY FELL
INTO DEEP
SLEEP.

AS
SOON
AS
THEY'D
EATEN...

I'M LOSING ALL
SENSE OF
WHAT'S
NORMAL...

...AND
WHAT'S NOT.

BUT WE'RE
SO FAR
FROM
HEAVEN.



ARE THEY
HAVING
DREAMS...

...OF
HEAVEN?





TATARA.



JUST
MINE?

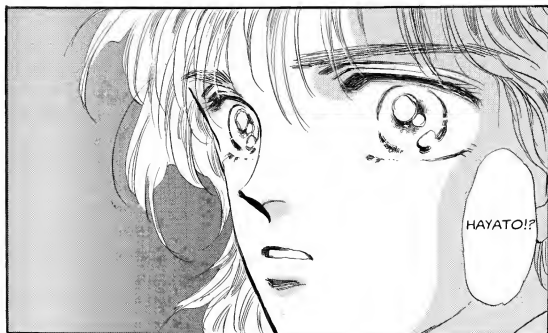


MY
CHAINS...

THEY'VE
BEEN
UNDONE.



TATARA.



HAYATO!?

VERTICAL
TAM-TAM TIME ②

HAYATO'S DAY:

 NOON

He hunts for food with
his bow and arrow.



SNAGGIN' A BOAR
IS NOTHIN'!

WHEE!

COME
BACK
HERE!



He's also quick on his feet.

HEY!



I SHOULD
LET HIM
SLEEP...









BOOM!

ASH

ZA

ASH

HAYATO!?





UH...

AH...

TA...

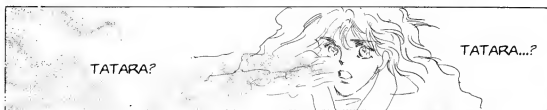
IT'S
TATARA!

WHAT'S
WRONG!?



HAYATO!

IT'S
ME!



TATARA?

TATARA...?



IT'S
A
MONSTER!

THIS
ISN'T
TATARA!

A
A
R
R
H!

DON'T
BE
FOOLED!



SURPRISING.



STILL A
BIT OF
BRAIN
LEFT.

EH,
EARTH
BEAR?

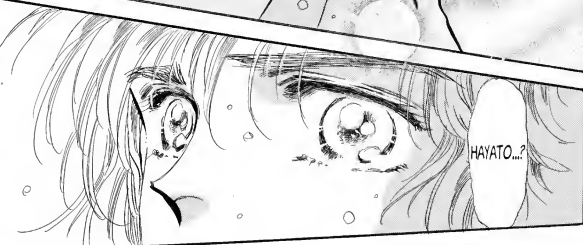
AFTER
ALL I
FED HIM.







NG



HAYATO...?



NO!



I'M
GOING
TO
KILL
TA-
TARA.



MY
HANDS...

THEY'RE
ABOUT TO
KILL TATARA.



I WANT TO
GO WITH
TATARA.

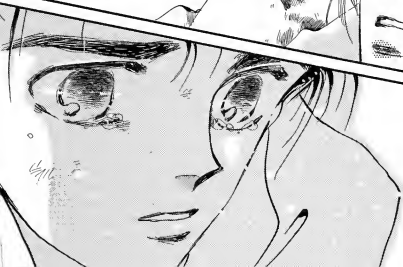
I WANT TO
BE
USEFUL.

TO MAKE
A NEW
COUNTRY...

ONE
WHERE MY
MOTHER
WOULDN'T
HAVE HAD
TO DIE!

WITH
TATARA!

TATARA...





TATARA.

THE
MAN...

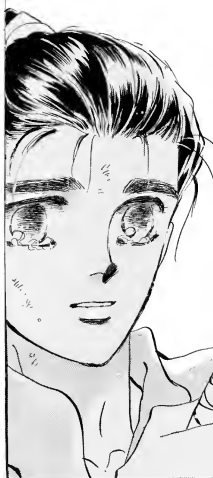
...EARTH
BEAR...

CHF

THEY
SAY...

HE'S
AT
YOUR
SIDE...

AND
AFTER
YOUR
LIFE...



HA...

YA...
TO...



AH...

A--

SHM
SHM

MA...

ARE
YOU...

PROUD
OF?
ME...?



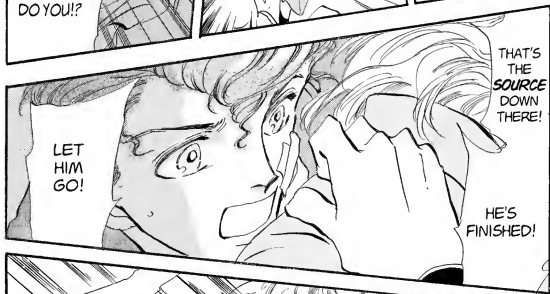
YOU DON'T
MEAN TO
JUMP IN
DO YOU!?



HAYATO!



HAYATO!



LET
HIM
GO!

THAT'S
THE
SOURCE
DOWN
THERE!

HE'S
FINISHED!



YOU SAY
HE'S
DONE
FOR!?

YOU
DARE!?



YOU
WERE
IN ON
THIS,
TOO!



I'M NOT
YOUR
ENEMY!

NO,
I
WASN'T!



HEY,
FIRE
FOX.

ARE YOU
ENJOYING
THE
SHOW?



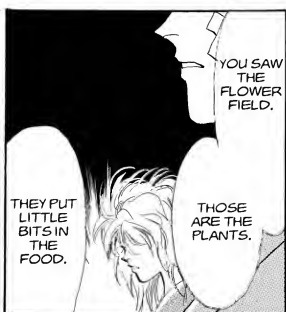
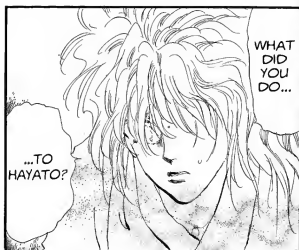
NANAO
WOKE
US
UP...

AND
UNDID
OUR
CHAINS.



IT
WASN'T
HIM.

HE'S
RIGHT,
TATARA.



RRR



RRR

YOU
MADE
HIM EAT
IT!



IF A MAN
CON-
SUMES
TOO
MUCH AT
ONCE...

HE ENDS
UP LIKE
YOUR
FRIEND.



...WITH
TERRIBLE
HALLUCINA-
TIONS.

HE
THOUGHT
YOU
WERE A
MONSTER.



HAYATO
TOLD ME
NOT TO
EAT
ANYTHING.



YOU
MADE
HIM...

HE'D
NEVER
HAVE
EATEN
IT ON
HIS
OWN.





TATARA...



FEEL THE
RAGE...

THAT'S
IT.

...WON'T BE
ENOUGH TO
MEET YOUR
FATE.

...AND
FEAR...

...THE
SORROW.

TEARS...



AND...
AND...

NO, I'M
NOT
SMART!

HAYATO!

I'M
A
FOOL!



I WANT
TO BE
WITH...

...A
SMART
LEADER.



!?

EH?

...IT
TALKED!?

THE
FUR...



DSH

UGH!



WAAA!

GOD.

WHAT A
SICK PLACE.

HE
WAS
CARRYING
A
CHILD!?

THE
LITTLE
BOY...!

I'M
SCARED!



HMPH.

I CAN
TAKE
YOU ON.

WAAA!



TATARA!

VSH



WAAA! WAAA!

TP TP

WAIT!

WAIT!

WE WON'T
HURT YOU!



...LITTLE
BOY.



!?

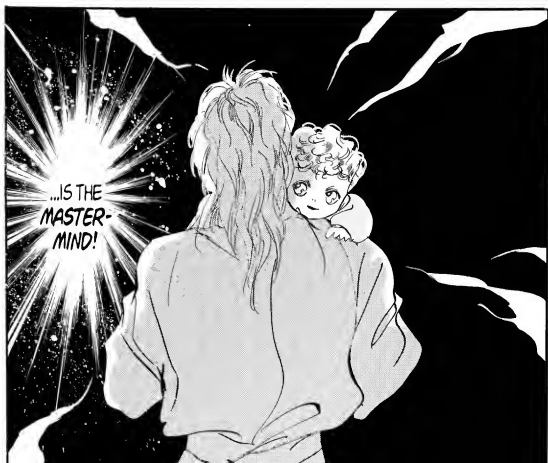
WHAT
IS
THIS!?



IT'S BEEN
FAR TOO
LONG!

WHAK

AND I'M IN A
VERY BAD
MOOD!!





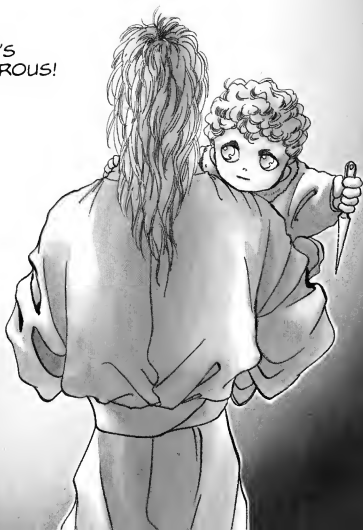
SILVER TALE 8: ESCAPE



THAT
LITTLE
BOY...

LOOK
OUT,
TATARA!

HE'S
DANGEROUS!





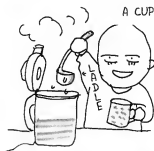
TINY TAM-TAM TIME ③

A DAY IN MY LIFE: 2

My electric kettle
broke. I push the
button but the water
doesn't come out.



Still boils
the water...



A CUP AT A TIME.

So this is how
I make tea
these days.

I'd better buy a new one. TAMU

SARASA'S JOURNEY

HOKKAIDO

Abashiri Prison

Kazuno

TOHOKU

Masunaga Stockade





ARE
YOU
HURT?

TATA-
RA!

!?



YOU'RE
AS
VICIOUS
AS ANY
ADULT.

I
DON'T
THINK
SO.

BUT WHEN
YOU'RE
CORNERED,
SUDDENLY
YOU'RE A
BABY?



HIC
SNIF

THERE,
THERE.

YOU
KNOW
HOW TO
HANDLE
CHILD-
REN?

DO YOU
WANT TO
KILL HIM?

WAAA
WAAA

THAT'S
ENOUGH.













HE'S GOT
THE
GENBU
SWORD.



WHAT!?

.....



IF IT
SEEMED
LIKELY...

I WAS
TO DO
WHATEVER
I COULD TO
HELP YOU.

SO
HERE
I AM.

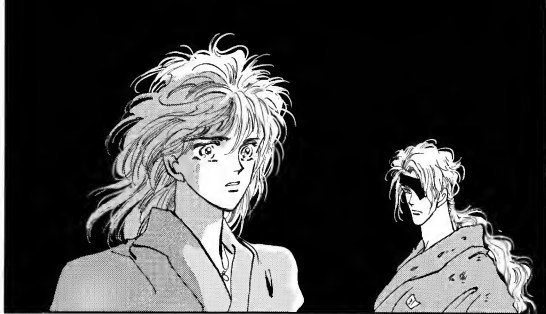
HE
WAS
HOPING...

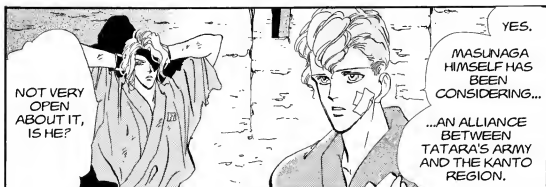
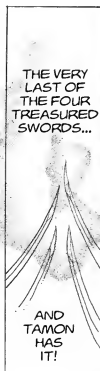
YOU MIGHT
BE ABLE TO
RESCUE
TAMON.



NOW
LISTEN.

THIS IS
WHAT
MASUNAGA
WANTS.





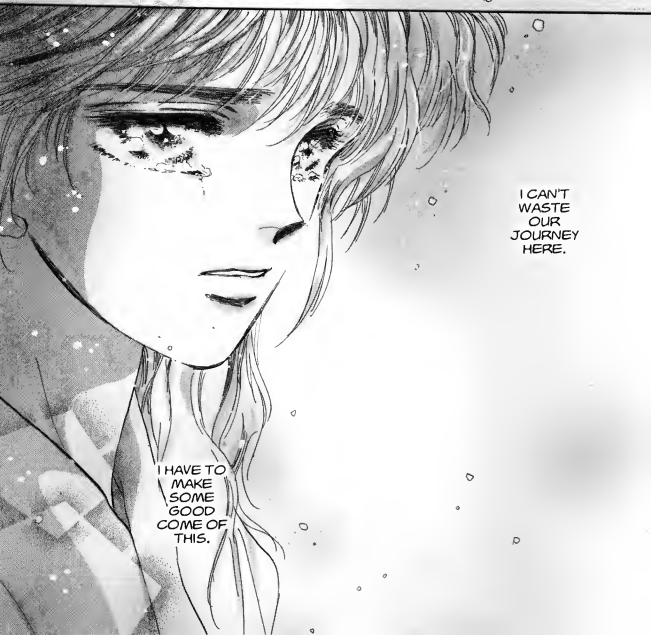


HE
WANTS A
NEW
JAPAN...
AND
PEACE...

JUST AS
MUCH
AS YOU
DO.

NO.
HE'S
NOT.

BUT HE WANTS
TO BELIEVE IN
YOU AND WHAT
YOU CAN DO.



I CAN'T
WASTE
OUR
JOURNEY
HERE.

I HAVE TO
MAKE
SOME
GOOD
COME OF
THIS.

HE FOUGHT
FOR THE
HOPE OF
"TATARA."

HAYATO
SUFFERED
FOR
"TATARA."



IF WE CAN GET
ALL FOUR
SWORDS
TOGETHER...

IF WE FORM
AN ALLIANCE
WITH
TOHOKU...



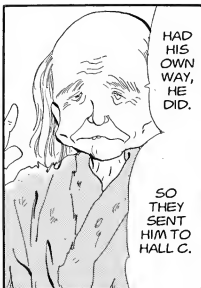
WE CAN
FIGHT THEM
HEAD TO
HEAD!

I KNOW
WE CAN
FIGHT
THE
RED
KING...

AND
THE
BLACK
KING...

AND
KING
UKON...









THE MAN
WHO
ESCAPED
20 YEARS
AGO...

WHAT
PATH DID
HE TAKE?

...
GAN,
THEN.

I'VE
BEEN
THINK-
ING.



MY
NAME
IS
IWA-
TARO.

MR.
...

BUT
CALL
ME
GAN.



ONCE
HE
GETS
THAT
LOOK
ON HIS
FACE...

I KNOW
I HAVE
NOTHING
TO
WORRY
ABOUT.



.....

...KAKU!?



DIDN'T
SAY A
THING
ABOUT
MAPS.

DID HE
GET ALL
THE
MAPS?

NOPE.



ALL
KAKU
SAID...

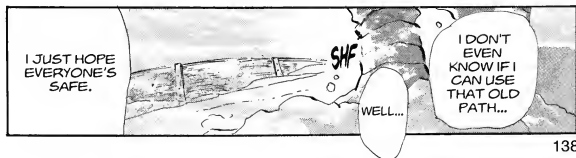
THERE'S
SOME
KIND OF A
BLIND
SPOT.

WAS
WE'D
BEEN
TRICKED.



DRAWN FROZEN
MOUSTACHE.

I NEVER
IMAGINED
I'D COME
BACK
HERE
AGAIN.



I JUST HOPE
EVERYONE'S
SAFE.

SHF

WELL...

I DON'T
EVEN
KNOW IF I
CAN USE
THAT OLD
PATH...





TAKE A
DIP IN THE
HOT
SPRINGS.
YOU'LL
FEEL
BETTER.

LET'S GO
REPORT
TO YOUR
FATHER.

COME
ON,
IT'S COLD
IN HERE.



I
HATE
THE
WINTER.

MY
BRAIN
GOES
DEAD.

I FEEL
LIKE I'M
IN A
NIGHT-
MARE.

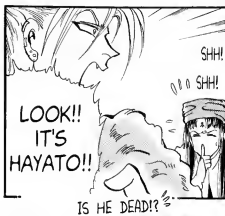




SORRY, MR. SEAL.







IS HE DEAD!?



...A BODY?

NO!

HAYATO!?



WHO FED YOU HIS OWN BEAR STEW!?

UH...

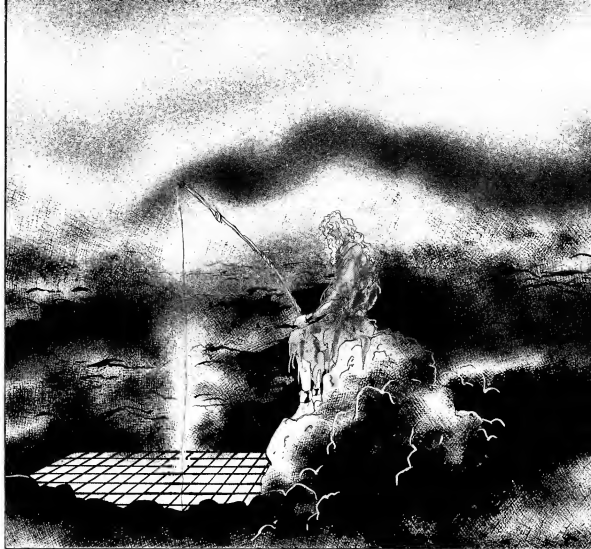
WHO WAS IT...

WHO SAVED YOU IN THAT BLIZZARD!?

TOLD YA IT WOULDN'T COME FREE!







VERTICAL
TAM-TAM TIME ③

存 NIGHT

G'NIGHT!

ZZZ

BOMP

FALLS ASLEEP INSTANTLY.
ANY TIME, ANY PLACE, IN
THE MIDDLE OF ANY
CONVERSATION.

"A CHILD THAT
SLEEPS WELL
GROWS WELL."

HE MUST HAVE
SWEET DREAMS...



MUST BE HAVING
A FUN TIME.

LOOK, HE'S
DROOLING!

AH-CHOO!

BUT HE DOESN'T
COVER HIMSELF
UP WELL, SO HE
CATCHES COLDS.

HE'S SO ADORABLE...

I GOTTA
SCAVENGE
OUTTA
THESE
HERE
LEFT-
OVERS.

THAT'S
WHY...

NAW,
NOBODY.

WE
DON'T
GET
NO
MEALS.

THIS IS
TH'
GARBAGE
DUMP, AN'
IT'S
COLD.

YOU CAN
KETCH
SOME-
THIN'
GOOD.



'FYEW
KNOW
WHAT
YER
DOIN'...

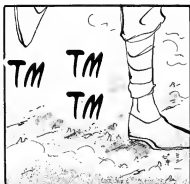
WHERE
ARE THE
OTHER
PRISON-
ERS?

THESE
LEFT-
OVERS'LL BE
COMPOSTED
PRETTY
QUICK...

SO I
GOTTA
FISH 'EM
UP NOW!

SOME-
TIMES
YOU
EVEN
KETCH
PEOPLE.

YOW!





PA!

I
GOTTA
GO.

I'LL TAKE
CARE OF
THIS.



OH, MR.
SOLITARY.

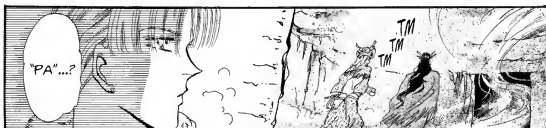
HOW
DOES HE
SURVIVE
IN
THERE?



THEY'RE
HEADING
TO HALL
C...

TO
RESCUE
TAMON.

TAM-
ON?



"PA" ...?



WHAT
THE HELL
IS THIS?



THE
MAN IN
CHARGE.

SO COLD!

I'LL TRY
HAVING
A TALK
WITH
HIM.

MY
UNCLE.

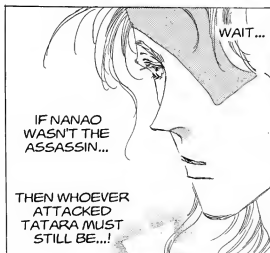
KING
UKON'S
YOUNGER
BROTHER.



AN
ORDER
FROM
ABOVE!

ALL
PRISONERS
HEADED
FOR HALL C!

SEIZE THE
ESCAPEES--



IF NANA
O WASN'T THE
ASSASSIN...

THEN WHOEVER
ATTACKED
TATARA MUST
STILL BE...!

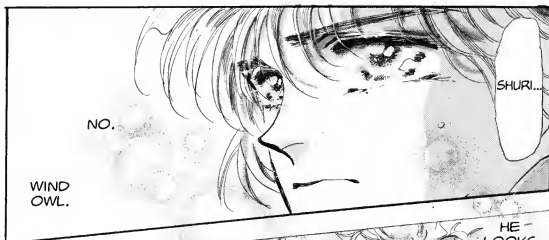


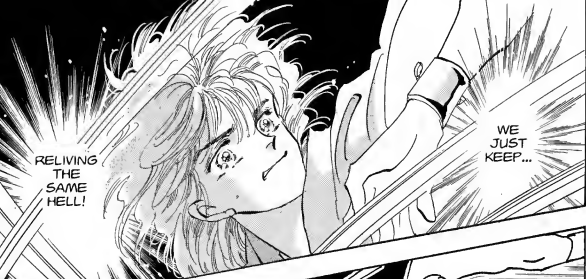
HOW'D
THEY
FIND
OUT?

LOOKS
LIKE
TROUBLE...

FOR
TATARA.









NA...

GA HA HA

TADA!

HA HA HA

NACHI--

STAR OF
KUMANO
AND THE
TENGU
FACTION--

YOUNG...

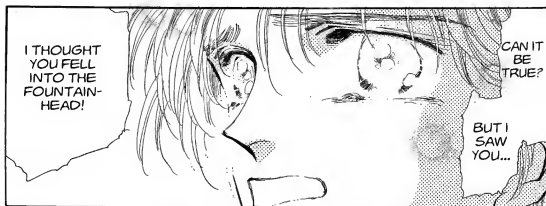
...MASTER!?

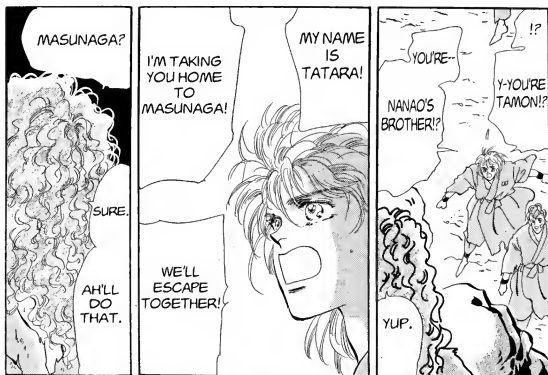
(NACHI- "YOUNG MASTER")

CHI...

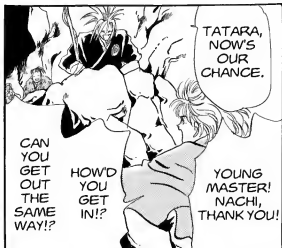
...!?

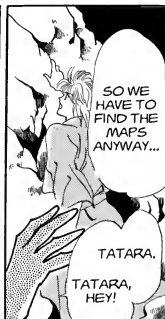
AT YOUR
SERVICE!



















COLD
WATER
RUSHED
IN...

CHAMBERS
AND
TUNNELS
FROZE
INSTANTLY.



ABOUT
TEN
YEARS
AGO...

WE
OPENED A
HOLE IN
THE
BOTTOM
OF A LAKE.

WE
WERE
DIGGING
IN THE
CAVES...

TO
INCREASE
OUR
TERRITORY.



THEY DIED
IN THAT
DISASTER.

AND MOST
OF THE
OTHER
ADULTS...

WIND
OWL'S
FATHER...

MY
PARENTS,
HIS
VASSALS...



FIRE
FOX...

WAS
ONLY AN
INFANT.

I WAS
TEN
YEARS
OLD.

WIND
OWL
WAS
EIGHT.



WE WERE ONLY CHILDREN...



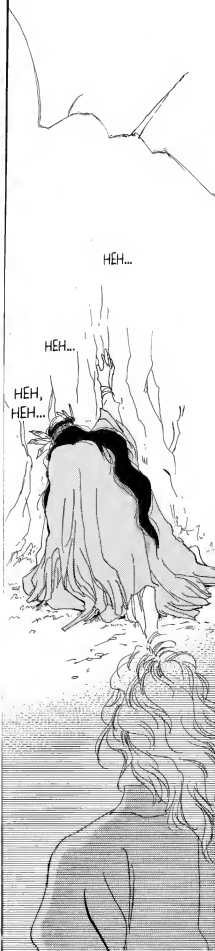
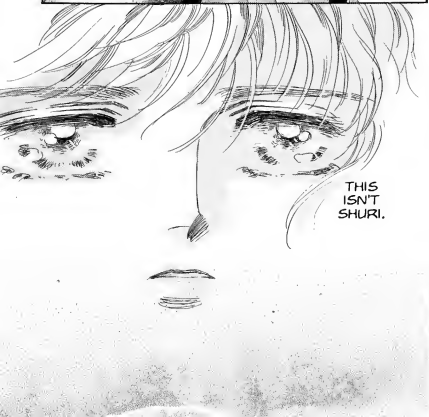
WE TREMBLED IN THE COLD.

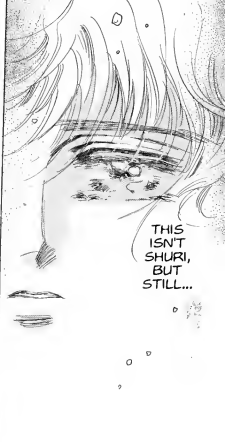
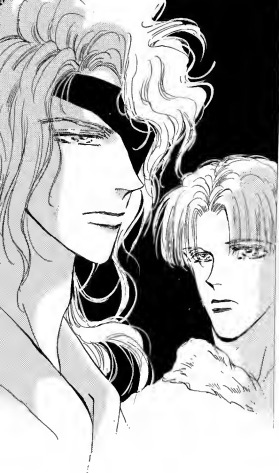
THERE WASN'T MUCH FOOD.







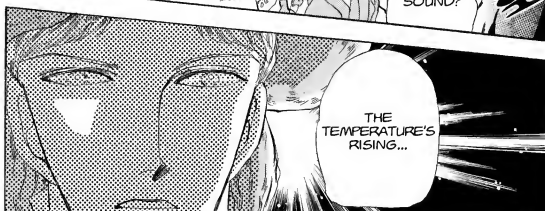


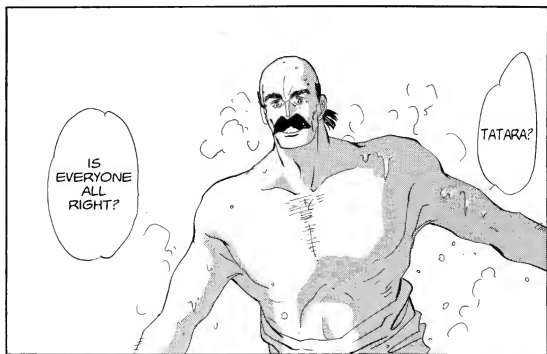


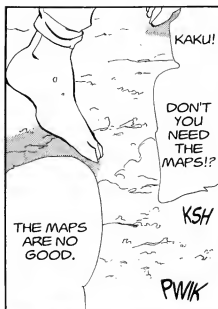
I DON'T
WANT TO
SEE YOU
CRY.

DON'T
CRY.

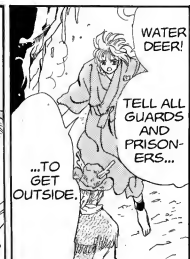


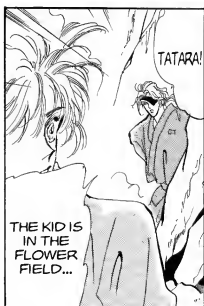
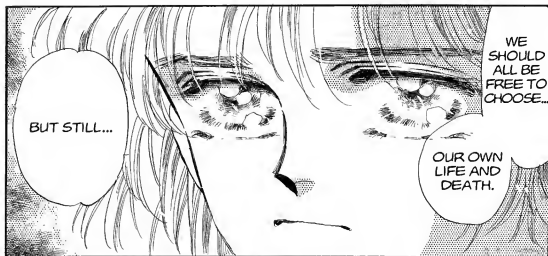




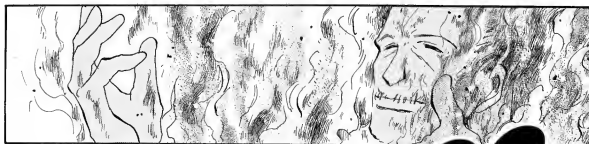


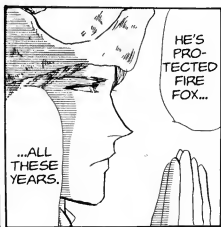


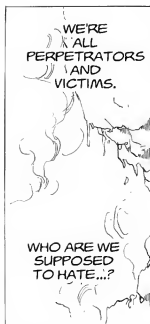












WE'RE
ALL
PERPETRATORS
AND
VICTIMS.

WHO ARE WE
SUPPOSED
TO HATE...?



ALL
OF
US.



LET'S
GO.



STOP FIGHTING
AND LISTEN TO
ME.

RAA AA

GUARDS
AND
PRISONERS!



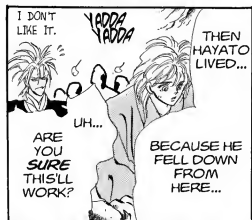
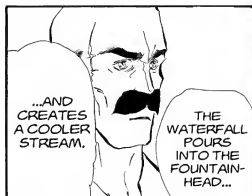
I WANT
YOU
ALL...

TO
ASSEMBLE
IN FRONT OF
THE
WATERFALL
BY HALL B.

THIS PLACE
WILL BE
FLOODED
SOON.

BUT IF
YOU'D
LIKE TO
GET
OUT...

IT'S
SNOWING
OUTSIDE...





WE KNOW
WHO TO
HATE.

COME
ON.

HFF

HFF

HFF

LET'S
GO!

THE MAN
WHO DROVE
ALL THESE
PEOPLE
HERE...



JUMP!

SMASH

KING
UKON!



IT'S BEEN
A WHILE!

TAM-TAM TIME

"HAPPINESS IN JUNE"

YOOHOO!

HOW'S EVERYONE DOING?

Write me with your comments! ♡

Please read "Chicago" and "Wild Corn" too, please! ♡



I GOT A LOT OF LETTERS ABOUT AGEHA IN VOLUME II. MOST PEOPLE SAID THEY LIKED HIM MORE. SOME SAID, "THAT WAS AWFUL! I'LL NEVER LOOK AT VOLUME II AGAIN!" (I'M SORRY! OR, "ARE YOU LEAVING TOWARDS YAOI NOW?" ...NO, I'M NOT.

THANKS FOR YOUR PASSION,
ANYWAY ONLY AGEHA COULD PULL
OFF WHAT HE DID.

TAMU.

SHURI OR ASAGI COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT.

There was a
voice
recording
session for
the drama
part.

I was facing
a deadline at
the time.



IT
REALLY
IS FUN!

IT'S
KIND
OF
FUN.

I didn't
know how
to write
a script...

I wrote it
all in one
sitting!

...I revised a lot
later though...

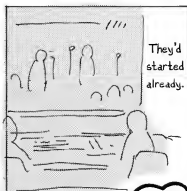


I've written about this
before, but there's a second
drama CD book out for
"BASARA" in Japan.

I
WROTE
THE
SCRIPT
FOR IT.



They'd
started
already.



BE STILL, MY HEART!

My hands
work
faster
when I
have a
goal.
(?)



I finished
(somehow)
and headed
to the
studio.
It was
raining
in
Togoshi
Ginza.

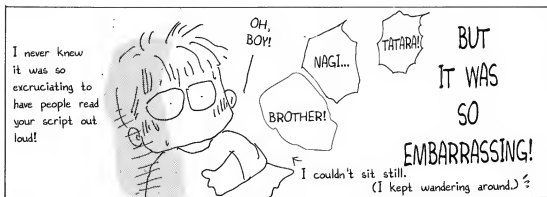
MUST SAY
"HI!" TO
THE VOICE
ACTORS!

SO I MUST
GO THIS
TIME!

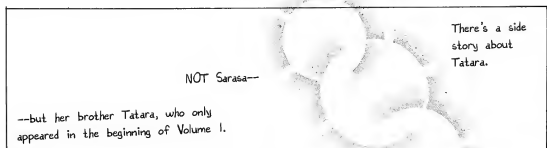
I COULDN'T
GO BACK
WHEN THEY
DID THE
MUSIC
VIDEO!

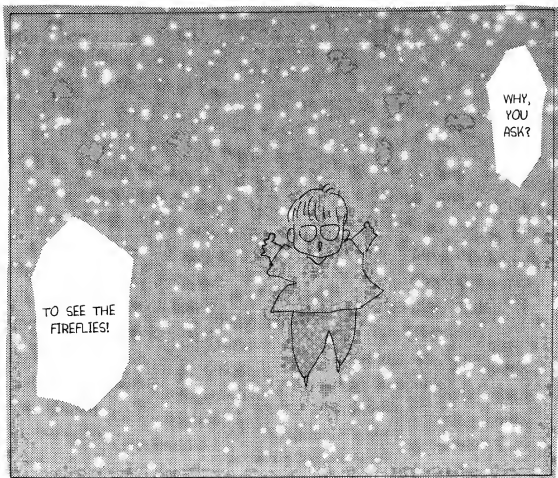
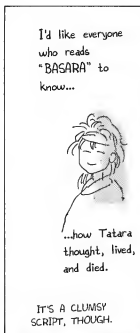
MUST
GO!

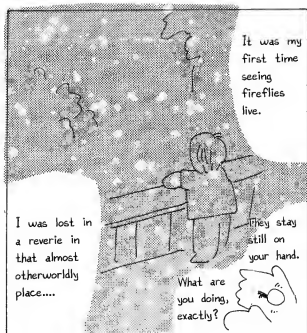




I'D ASSUMED A PRO DRAWN WRITER WAS GOING TO FIX IT, BUT THEY LEFT IT EXACTLY AS I WROTE IT.







It was my first time seeing fireflies live.

I was lost in a reverie in that almost otherworldly place....

They stay still on your hand.

What are you doing, exactly?



I wanted to go see, just THAT once—
THAT HOTEL IS SO GORGEOUS!
I LOVE IT!

And my editor helped make my dream come true! ♡



They keep them in the garden.

THEY LET YOU IN IF YOU HAVE DINNER OR STAY OVERNIGHT THERE.

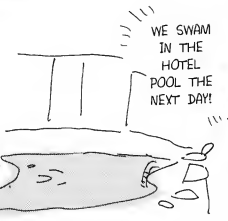
You can take a walk among them.



My editor bought me a swimsuit made of paper!

It feels kind of crunchy.

THEY EVEN HAVE A JACUZZI.



WE SWAM IN THE HOTEL POOL THE NEXT DAY!



We stayed at the hotel that night.

I shared a Japanese suite with another artist, Ms. Kazumi Oga, and my editor.
Female.



AHH, THIS IS LUXURY!

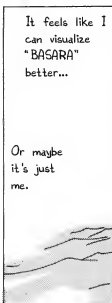
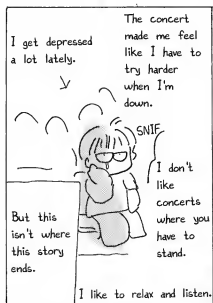
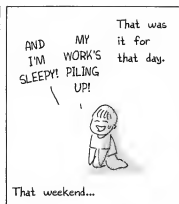
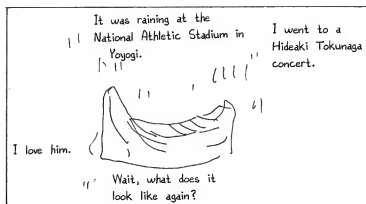
IT FEELS SO GOOD!

I hadn't gone swimming in a long time.

THIS IS THE LIFE!

DO YOU GUYS GET TO SWIM MUCH?

I love to swim, but I get self-conscious when I wear a swimsuit, and it's annoying when you can't see without glasses. So I hardly ever get to go.



Mr. Terashima has stayed on since the last CD, and composed the music!
Mr. Ishihara sang! ♪
And Zabadek composed and performed two of the songs! (Isn't that awesome!?) I was so happy to meet you all!

I'm usually not a fangirl...

Thank you!



Another day of happiness and excitement!

BUY THE CD BOOK!



THE GUY PLAYING THE GUITAR...

Tokunaga actually exists in real life! (It sounds weird, but it feels so surreal.)

It kind of made me realize...



I'm almost out of pages...

Sometimes I think it's all a dream, where everything works the way I want.

I'M JUST A CARTOONIST.

IT'S SO WEIRD.

It's funny...

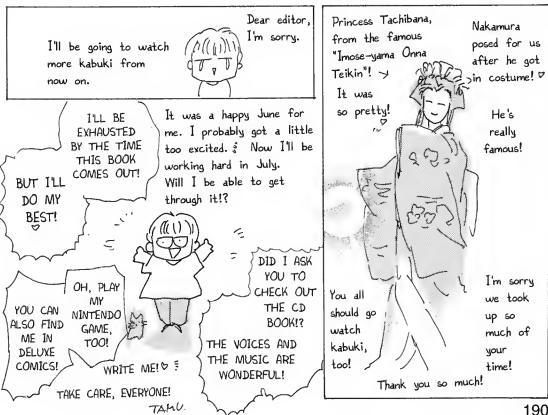
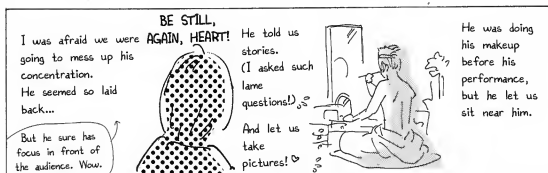
I've gotten into kabuki recently.

I ONLY JUST STARTED!

I should never forget that I'm happy.



...when I became a manga artist, I never dreamed I'd get to meet anyone in that industry. The world of CDs, videos, and voice actors seemed so distant.



Recommendations

If you enjoyed *Basara*, please try these other graphic novels:

CHICAGO

From *Basara*'s creator, Yumi Tamura, *Chicago* is an action-packed short series set in the near future. Capable Rei and her seasoned partner Uozumi are survivors. After being deployed to a half-finished manmade island to search for earthquake victims, their military rescue squad is bombed. Discovering the mysterious forces behind the bombing becomes their personal goal as they join a private rescue force that gathers secretly in a Shinjuku bar called "Chicago."



Story and Art by Yumi Tamura
© 2001 Yumi Tamura/
Shogakukan, Inc.

FROM FAR AWAY

This series from the top of Japanese sales charts is the masterpiece of the renowned shojo artist Kyoko Hikawa. The tale of a girl blasted into another world, *From Far Away* has all the action and romance you might expect but with a whole lot of extra twists. For one thing, the heroine doesn't understand the language! She must learn to speak it while struggling to understand this new world and the mysterious young man who has become her protector. All the while, she is unaware of the dire destiny she is meant to fulfill.



Kanatsukara © Kyoko Hikawa
1991/HAKUSENSHA, Inc.

VAGABOND

One of the best action artists out there, Takehiko Inoue puts his skills to the test in this extraordinary series. Inspired by Eiji Yoshikawa's classic samurai story *Musashi*, *Vagabond* is the tale of an unfocused soldier on the losing side of history. Takezo's initial goal of survival escalates the violence around him, turning him into a homicidal wildman. Through the way of the sword, he must transform himself from brute to saint.



Story & Art by Takehiko Inoue
© 1998-2005
I.T. Planning, Inc.

Editor's comments

At last! There's room to talk about the four 'virtues' names. Introduced in book six as Bamboo, Orchid, Chrysanthemum and Plum, these super-spies also have personal names. Their names and code-names, if you will, coincide with each other. Muratake, who plays a part in this volume, has the code-name Bamboo as well as the kanji for bamboo in his name—"take." Umewaka, who tricked Lord Asho into betraying Shuri, is Plum, for "ume" means plum. "Ran" means orchid, so that's Ranmaru's code name. "Kiku" means chrysanthemum, so that's Kikune's alias. Kiku—who? Uh...you'll meet Kikune later!

The title of *Silver Tale 7* refers to the plant that's used to drug the prisoners of Hall B. "Datura metel" is toxic but also hallucinogenic in small doses. One of the first Chinese anesthetics, it has been used since the third century. It's also called "downy thorn apple" and "angel's trumpet," but we thought "devil's trumpet" was more fitting for the title.

How do you get the nickname Gan from Iwataro? This is one of those situations that doesn't translate. The "iwa" in Iwataro is the kanji for "rock." Gan is another way to pronounce that kanji.

Although the origins of *kabuki* theater lie in religious ceremonies, its topics range from sublime to raunchy. Unlike the more reserved and aristocratic *no* theater, commoner audiences cultivated *kabuki*. In 1629, women were banned from performing because of the fights that broke out among the patrons, but the medium survived by turning to all male casts, similar to Shakespearian theater. The men who play female roles are known as "onnagata" and are generally considered the ultimate in Japanese femininity. This is why Mr. Nakamura played Princess Tachibana.

The title of the play Tamura mentioned can be translated various ways: "Example of Womanly Virtue," "Mirror of Virtuous Women," "Japanese Romeo and Juliet," and "Admonitions to Women of Their Relationships with Men." Interestingly, "Imose-yama" (Mt. Imose) is a metaphor for "the love of women." ...which makes you wonder if the name of "CLAMP School's" lady-loving Nokoru Imonoyama is coincidental?